

TECHNICAL NOTES OF EXPLANATION TO TREND TABLES

TOTAL UNDUPLICATED RECIPIENTS AND PAYMENTS (Table 1)

The Public Assistance data in this table shows the unduplicated number of persons receiving benefits under the Family Independence, State Emergency Relief, State Disability Assistance, Energy Assistance, and/or Food Assistance programs. Also included is the amount of Public Assistance benefits issued.

The DHS Benefit Recipient data in this table is an unduplicated estimated count that includes persons receiving benefits under the Family Independence, State Emergency Relief, State Disability Assistance, Energy Assistance, Food Assistance, Supplemental Security Income, and/or Medicaid programs.

An unduplicated count means that each recipient (or case as noted in other tables) is counted only once even though they may have received assistance under more than one component.

FAMILY INDEPENDENCE PROGRAM (FIP) (Tables 2 - 7)

The FIP Non Two Parent component includes single parent families containing children or a pregnant woman. The FIP Two Parent component includes families with children and two adult recipients.

FIP cases are an unduplicated count of cases receiving benefit authorizations (financial assistance) during the report month. Benefits are issued electronically to a debit card account. Recipients access benefits via state-issued 'Bridge' cards.

These are the "official" FIP caseloads used for federal reporting, agency budgeting, and legislative appropriation.

The number of FIP openings and FIP closings are determined by matching monthly FIP benefit authorizations. A case authorized for benefits in July, but not in June, is counted as a July "case opening". Similarly, a case authorized for benefits in June, but not in July, is counted as a July "case closing." The number of FIP recipients is the number of persons for whom assistance is authorized during the month.

The FIP employment rate is the percentage of FIP cases containing one or more employed persons.

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STATE DISABILITY ASSISTANCE (SDA) (Table 8)

The SDA program provides financial assistance to disabled persons who are not eligible for SSI. Benefits are issued electronically to a debit card account. Recipients access benefits via state-issued 'Bridge' cards.

To qualify for SDA, a person must be disabled according to one or more of the following criteria:

- 1) Is unable to work due to physical or mental disability for at least 90 days from the onset of the disability.
- 2) Is a caretaker of a disabled person (does not have to be related to the caretaker or be in need of financial assistance) provided that the assistance of a caretaker is determined medically necessary, and the caretaker and the disabled person live together.
- 3) Is a resident of an adult foster care home, a home for the aged, a substance abuse treatment center (SATC), or a county infirmary.
- 4) Is receiving post-residential substance abuse treatment within 30 days following discharge from a SATC.

The SDA data is compiled similarly to that described for FIP. This count is the "official" SDA caseload used for agency budgeting and legislative appropriation.

STATE EMERGENCY RELIEF (SER) (Tables 9 - 11)

SER is intended to provide immediate assistance to persons in emergency situations to secure decent and safe housing and to remove other threats to health and safety. The total SER caseload is an unduplicated count of federal and state funded cases where a check was issued to a client or vendor for emergency items such as food, home repairs, shelter, and utilities.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE (MA) (Table 12)

The goal of MA is to assure that high quality medical care is available to those people who are unable to pay for it, and to furnish care in a manner respecting the dignity and individuality of each person. Two groups are eligible for the covered medical services. The first group includes people who receive FIP or SSI or meet the non-financial requirements of those programs. The second group includes the "medically needy". The distinguishing characteristic between the two groups is that the "medically needy" have income and/or property valued above the FIP or SSI level.

The MA data provides the total number of persons enrolled in Medicaid during the indicated report month. These data are presented on an estimated basis.

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FOOD ASSISTANCE (Tables 13 - 14)

The purpose of the Food Assistance Program is to increase food purchasing power and provide nutritional assistance for households whose income is a substantially limiting factor. The total number of Food Assistance households is an unduplicated count of households to whom benefits were authorized during the month. Benefits are issued electronically to a debit card account. Recipients access benefits via state-issued 'Bridge' cards.

The number of public assistance households is the number of Food Assistance households who also receive benefits for the Family Independence Program or State Disability Assistance Program. The number of non-public assistance households is the number of Food Assistance households who do not receive Family Independence Program or State Disability Assistance.

SUPPLEMENTARY SECURITY INCOME (SSI) (Table 15)

SSI is administered by the federal government and provides money payments to persons who are age 65 or over, blind, or disabled, and who have limited income and resources.

This data is the unduplicated number of recipients receiving a federal payment for SSI and/or state supplementation for SSI. The data reflects recipients and payments for SSI cases active at the beginning of the month. As a result, the recipient counts and payments are lower (about 3% for recipients, and 10% for payments) than the unduplicated count of recipients receiving SSI throughout the month.

CHILD DAY CARE (Table 16)

This program provides payments for child care for children up to the age of 13 years, if a parent/substitute parent is unavailable or unable to provide the care because of employment, education and/or because of a health/social condition for which treatment is being received and care is provided by an eligible provider. (Note: Children ages 13-18 may receive child care under certain circumstances). A child care provider may not be authorized to receive payments for more than 100 hours per pay period per child. Care can be provided in a registered family day care home; licensed group day care home or day care center; in a relative's home by an enrolled relative day care provider; or in the child's home by an enrolled day care aide.

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HOME HELP SERVICES (Table 17)

This program is funded under both Title XX and Title XIX and primarily provides payments for services to assist eligible individuals with personal care activities necessary in daily living to maintain independence in self-care needs. The program pays for services necessary to meet basic self-care. The services are provided by personal care providers and housekeepers employed by the recipient. Also provided is a payment for the maintenance of a trained service dog, if required.

The data includes cases and payments with Title XX and/or Title XIX funding. Since some cases receive home help services under both Title XX and Title XIX funding sources, the count of total cases indicated in Line 1 may be less than the sum of Title XX cases in Line 4 and Title XIX cases in Line 7.

SOCIAL SERVICES (Table 18)

This data includes the total unduplicated number of cases eligible to receive social services under the following programs during the report month: community placement (adults and children), day care for children, delinquency services, employment support services, family services, protective services (adults and children) and independent living services. The unduplicated number of cases is less than the sum of cases under the previously mentioned services, because a case may be opened under more than one program.

The applications data is the number of applications registered during the report month under adult community placement, children's foster care, court initiated guardianship, delinquency, preventive services/families, adult protective services, children's protective services, independent living, adoption services, interim services, and youth in transition.

FOSTER CARE (Table 19)

Title IVE Foster Care: This program covers maintenance costs for children in foster care. The child must have received FIP or have been eligible to receive FIP during the month in which petition for removal from the home was signed. A court order making DHS responsible for the child's placement and care is also required.

State Ward Board and Care: This program covers the foster care of children accepted as wards of DHS upon commitment by a juvenile court, who are not eligible for Title IVE funding. State Ward Board and Care is also used when the facility does not meet Title IVE requirements for funding, or the youth is placed in a state-operated facility (training school, camp, or residential care facility). The table excludes non-certified payments and related children.

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ENERGY ASSISTANCE (EA) (Table 20)

Energy Assistance is the umbrella name given to the several component programs designed to aid low income families in meeting their heating needs and to provide energy-related home repairs to assist households to reduce their energy consumption. The components below are supported primarily with Federal Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) block grant funds.

Home Heating Credit (HHC): Maintenance benefits issued by the Michigan Department of Treasury to low income households. Benefits are issued in the form of warrants or drafts. The data includes state and LIHEAP funding.

SER Energy Services: Emergency assistance issued on behalf of low income households in need of emergency energy assistance or energy related home repairs. To qualify, households must meet SER eligibility standards

Heating Assistance for FIP/SDA Cases: Heating assistance for FIP/SDA recipients requesting heat expenses to be paid to a vendor, in need of a deliverable fuel, or with a shut-off notice from their heat provider.

Electric Assistance for FIP/SDA Cases: Provides electric assistance for FIP/SDA cases to prevent shut-offs.

RECOUPMENT (Tables 21 - 23)

The Automated Recoupment System (ARS) is a subsystem of the Client Information Management System, and is designed to aid and support local office efforts to maintain information and recoup client over-issuances for the FIP, SDA, and Food Assistance programs. ARS includes both administrative recoupment, i.e., reduction of FIP or SDA cash grants or Food Assistance benefits on active cases, as well as on-line recording of cash payments for active or inactive cases.

Cases Making Payment: Shows the total amount recouped during the month, by program, including the administrative recoupment or cash for FIP and SDA, and administrative recoupment or cash for Food Assistance. Collection rates for administrative recoupment vary by program requirements, grant or allotment levels, and type of over-issuance.

Balances for Active and Inactive Cases: Shows the total amount of the recoupment balance, as well as the active and inactive recoupment balances for FIP, SDA and Food Assistance as of the end of the month.

Balances by Type of Overpayment: Shows FIP, SDA, and Food Assistance recoupment balances as of the end of the month, by the type of over-issuance. i.e., overpayments which were determined through the involvement of the Office of Inspector General (OIG) or designated representative (DR); over-issuances determined by a disqualification hearing or waiver or court/consent agreement with no OIG involvement (Intentional Program Violation); over-issuances caused by the action or inaction on the part of the client (Client Error); over-issuances resulting from the action or inaction of the DHS local or central office (Agency Error).